

# SMITH WOULD JUNK PROHIBITION

## WOULD MODIFY THE LAW AND REPEAL AMENDMENT

In Acceptance Speech Makes Prohibition Leading Issue and Declares for Return of Liquor Traffic

### FAVORS GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Would Urge Congress to Give Us State Option While Amendment Stands; Ultimately Repeal Amendment

The forthcoming presidential election will be a referendum on the prohibition policy.

Up till the time Governor Smith delivered his acceptance speech Wednesday evening, August 22, there might have been many voters who believed, and possibly vastly more who hoped that the prohibition issue would be at most a secondary issue. Governor Smith has willed otherwise. He has come before the people with a definite unequivocal proposition to junk prohibition.

There is no great difference in the prohibition declarations carried in the platforms of the Kansas City and Houston conventions. That prohibition would be an issue, however, was made evident to most people when Governor Smith repudiated his party's platform in the telegram of acceptance which he sent to Houston, for while Secretary Hoover made no specific reference to prohibition in his message to the Kansas City convention, his past record and attitude on this question and his indorsement of the party's platform in full left no room for doubt as to his position. However, the public anxiously awaited declarations from the candidates on this question which is uppermost in the people's minds.

Secretary Hoover in his acceptance speech declared that he did not favor the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. He pledged enforcement of the amendment and condemned any effort at "nullification by indirection."

### SAYS DRY LAW IS FAILURE

Governor Smith in his acceptance speech August 23 condemned prohibition as a failure, and declared in favor of changing the Volstead Law so as to permit each state to determine for itself what constitutes intoxicating liquor, and also declared for amending the Eighteenth Amendment, authorizing each state by a referendum vote to permit the manufacture and sale of all intoxicating liquors within the borders of the state, the liquor not to be drunk upon the premises where sold. This in effect would be repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment.

He suggested so-called government control such as is in effect in Canada as the proper method of handling the liquor traffic.

He pledged strict enforcement of the law so long as the Eighteenth Amendment is a part of the Constitution, because he would be mindful of his oath, which is, "I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States and to the best of my ability protect, preserve and defend the Constitution of the United States." He also declared that the President has another constitutional duty, which is "to recommend to the Congress such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

He declared that the prohibition law has not been enforced, that it has induced official corruption and graft. He quotes a "former Republican prohibition administrator" as saying, "Three-fourths of the dry agents were political ward heelers named by politicians without regard to Civil Service laws, and prohibition is the new political pork barrel." Governor Smith promises that he will stamp out such corruption, and adds, "Such conditions can not and will not exist under any administration presided over by me."

### BAD RECORD ON ENFORCEMENT

His promise for enforcement of the prohibition law would be more impressive

were it not for his record on prohibition law enforcement in New York as Governor of his state. As Governor he took the same oath to support the Constitution that he would take if inaugurated President, yet he advocated and signed a measure that took away effective enforcement from 33,000 enforcement officials, putting the whole burden of enforcement upon a few federal officers, and put the whole burden of hearing prohibition enforcement cases upon federal courts. As a result his state has become notorious for liquor lawlessness.

His proposal of state option to fix the alcoholic content of intoxicating liquor of course is an effort to get around the Eighteenth Amendment. It is "nullification by indirection."

### ADVOCATE OF LOCAL OPTION

Since when did Governor Smith become a convert to the local option method of dealing with the liquor traffic? As an Assemblyman he consistently and persistently fought all efforts made by the foes of the license system to secure a local option law that would give communities the right to determine whether they wanted saloons in their midst. His excuse now in trying to explain that record is that the law could not be enforced. "Liquor would be shipped from wet communities into the dry, making a farce of the law," he said. Would this not also be true now if his state option proposal were to go into effect?

His proposal to amend the Eighteenth Amendment, setting up a scheme of government whereby a state by popular vote could legalize the manufacture and sale of all intoxicants, including distilled liquors, goes the whole length in the plan to restore the liquor traffic.

### WHEN DID SMITH BECOME ENEMY OF SALOON

Smith wants it all, all "except the old saloon."

Since when has Governor Smith become an enemy of the saloon? He emphatically declares that he will never approve its return. He has discovered that the saloon is bad. That institution he so earnestly defended as an Assemblyman in New York he now says is a "defunct institution" and must never come back. It took the Eight-

eenth Amendment in operation to demonstrate to Governor Smith that the saloon as operated in his Assembly days is a bad institution.

Of course this proposal to amend the Eighteenth Amendment is nothing more than a dramatic gesture, for it is not at all likely that he could succeed in persuading two-thirds of both branches of Congress and three-fourths of the state Legislatures practically to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment, but it does show what an earnest friend the liquor traffic has in Alfred E. Smith. No doubt the gesture will fool some wets.

### FAVORS GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Governor Smith would substitute for the saloon method of distributing liquor the so-called government control plan, which is in reality liquor control of the government, as in effect in Canada. In his acceptance speech he decries the prohibition law under which the youth of our nation are using liquor "in a way which was unknown before prohibition." And yet he proposes a scheme whereby the liquor would be brought into the homes, for he insists that no liquor is to be drunk on the premises where sold. Young men and young women throughout the nation who will cast their first votes in the next election are certain to resent Governor Smith's statement that young people "are now using liquor in a way which was unknown before prohibition."

That portion of Governor Smith's acceptance address with prohibition and its enforcement is printed in full elsewhere in this paper.

### THE ISSUE IS CLEAR

There is no longer room for doubt. The issue is clear-cut. Governor Smith's election would be interpreted to be a mandate from the people to junk the prohibition policy. It would be small comfort that Governor Smith as President would be unable to carry out his purpose to repeal the Eighteenth Amendment, or even if he would fail to persuade Congress to modify the Volstead law. His election in itself would be a wet triumph and would be interpreted as such and would encourage bootleggers and law violators to redouble their efforts.

### TO MAKE THE LAW A JOKE

The dries of this nation must rally to meet the challenge of Alfred E. Smith and his backers. His victory at the polls November 6 would set back prohibition progress fifty years.

## SENATOR CURTIS DECLARES FOR DRY POLICY

Emphatically Declares He Is Opposed to Repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment or the Repeal of the Volstead Law; Hits State Opposition on Liquor Issue

Senator Curtis, of Kansas, was officially notified of his nomination by the Republican convention for the vice-presidency of the United States, in Topeka, August 18. Senator Curtis, who throughout his long public career has been a friend of the prohibition policy, in his acceptance speech declared for that retention and enforcement of the national prohibition law. He particularly opposed Governor Smith's plan of state option to determine the alcoholic content of beverages to be manufactured, sold and transported while the Eighteenth Amendment is still a part of the Constitution. Senator Curtis' statement on law enforcement and prohibition follows.

To determine the extent to which legislation is beneficial and beyond which it is hurtful, is the province of statesmanship. Good laws, that is, good statesmanship, are the result of the application of common sense and sound judgment to immutable principles. While people may differ as to the wisdom of the enactment of a particular piece of legislation, or as to the amending of the constitution in regard thereto, it is impossible to ignore the constitution, and unthinkable to evade it by a particular administrative policy.

The constitution of the United States is a keynote to our national strength, our pride in the hour of prosperity, our consolation and rallying point under every pressure of adversity; and whoever seriously wishes to preserve our constitution in its full purity and vigor must of necessity wish to have all its articles and amendments honestly obeyed and faithfully enforced.

Both freedom and justice are to be se-

cured only through popular respect for the laws of our country while they remain so, regardless of personal opinion. The Republican party pledges itself to the faithful enforcement and vigorous execution of the Eighteenth Amendment to the constitution. My own record among you as prosecuting attorney for Shawnee County shows clearly that I believe in and practice enforcement of the law.

The prohibition amendment ultimately was adopted by all of the states except Connecticut and Rhode Island—not merely by the required three-fourths of the states, but by all except two. Through this voluntary action which binds all the states delegated to the federal government their full original power and responsibility on the liquor prohibition question. The federal government accepted the power and responsibility so delegated, thereby binding itself, and, accordingly, Congress passed the Volstead act.

For the federal government now to adopt, or even to propose or to favor a policy which will result in allowing each state to determine for itself the alcoholic content of beverages to be manufactured, sold and transported throughout the country, would be a direct and indefensible attempt on its part to evade or to repudiate the responsibility so delegated and assumed, and an endeavor to redelegate the responsibility of the several states from whence it came, without any justification for such action.

I believe in meeting an issue squarely, therefore I state that not only am I heartily in favor of faithfully enforcing all our laws, but further, I am opposed to the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment or of the Volstead act.

## JIM REED IS PEEVED

Hits Anti-Saloon League Because It Defeated His Wet Candidate

Senator James Reed, of Missouri, is peeved at the Anti-Saloon League. This is not news, for Senator Reed is generally in a hostile attitude of mind toward the League, but he has new cause for antagonism, or at least he thinks he has, because of the defeat of his candidate for United States Senator, one James A. Collet. Collet, being wet enough to satisfy Reed, was not dry enough to satisfy the dry Democrats of the state. Reed had fondly hoped to make Collet his successor. Naturally the Anti-Saloon League opposed Collet and supported the successful candidate, Charles M. Hay, who has long been a dry leader in Missouri. Now Reed thinks he has discovered that the Anti-Saloon League is out to wreck the Democratic party. Of course the Anti-Saloon League did not enter into partisan politics in that state. It merely advised dry Democrats to support the dry Democratic candidate.

In his tirade against the Anti-Saloon League Senator Reed is quoted by the Associated Press dispatch as saying: "Even now the Anti-Saloon League is covertly charging the election of Governor Smith means the reopening of the saloon and the flooding of the country with unrestricted liquor. They know this charge to be untrue. They know no considerable body of men propose the return of the saloon, and that Governor Smith's attitude is that a better way to true temperance can be found than the plan of the Volstead act."

If Governor Smith will not attempt to bring back the liquor traffic if he is elected, he is certainly fooling a lot of the wets. He is fooling even his campaign manager, that former Republican, John J. Raskob, who declared that he allied himself with Smith because he saw a chance "to get rid of this damnable prohibition." When these wets begin to talk "true temperance," dries are suspicious. They long ago learned what a wet means by "true temperance."

### TESTIMONY OF AN EXPERT

The editor is in receipt of a letter from Dr. A. Frank Ziegenfuss, a widely known physician who has practiced his profession in Philadelphia for nearly fifty years and who, as the result of his experience and observation, is an enthusiastic defender of the Eighteenth Amendment. After describing somewhat the conditions as he saw them in the old saloon days and comparing them with the improved conditions which he has found in recent years he continues: "I cannot understand how a man of large influence and at the head of large industrial establishments can advocate a modification of our present law when they must surely know that the law is for the good of all the people. Modification would be followed by the return of the saloon. It would be a sorry plight to have to drive on the public highway if there were no restriction of the liquor traffic such as we have today. Railroads want sober engineers and it is just as important to have sober drivers of the automobile on our congested highways."

### WOMEN ACTIVE FOR HOOVER

As a practical means of furnishing the woman not in politics an opportunity to help in the election of Herbert Hoover, the mailing of a million postcard pledges has been begun by the women's division of the Republican National Committee, says a Washington dispatch in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Each card enlists the signer in Mr. Hoover's campaign and supplies the occasion for winning another woman's vote for him. In addition every recipient will have called to her attention the imperative necessity of registering in order to vote. The text of the postcard is:

"My dear Mr. Hoover: I hereby promise to win one woman voter for you on November 6, and I further pledge myself to see that she is duly registered as a voter. Yours for a sweeping victory."